

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-6 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Takahashi, U.S. Patent No. 6,630,960. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

According to claim 1, a type of metering process is selected and then the exposure parameters are selected based on the selected type of metering process. The correction is then performed based essentially on the selected metering process. The Examiner asserts that Takahashi discloses determining the exposure parameters according to the selected method of metering, and performing a correcting process which is set based upon the determined exposure parameters of the specific areas (citing col. 7, line 50 to col. 8, line 60). Applicants respectfully submit that Takahashi fails to teach or suggest performing a correcting process based on the determined exposure parameters.

Takahashi is directed to setting optimum exposure parameters according to the photo-taking situation (col. 2, lines 27-29). The portion relied upon by the Examiner as teaching the correction process is actually a discussion of how the exposure parameters under which an image is captured may be selected according to the metering process. Specifically, the discussion of Fig. 7 relates to the center weighted light metering method and the discussion of Fig. 8 relates to a light metering process suitable for landscape photo-taking. Takahashi specifically states, at col. 8, lines 55-60, that in addition to the two examples (Fig. 7 and Fig. 8) discussed above, there may be provided other photo-taking modes corresponding to various photo-taking situations and various automatic exposure characteristics can be realized by selecting those modes suitable to the photometry area setting and photographing conditions described later in the patent. This is merely a discussion of setting the appropriate exposure characteristics according to the selected photo-taking mode, and does not teach or suggest a correction process through which the captured image is corrected and which is set based on the determined exposure parameters. Takahashi simply does not teach such a correction process. Thus, the features of claim 1 are not taught or suggested by Takahashi.

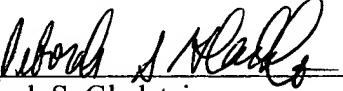
Claims 5 and 6 recite features similar to those of claim 1 and are allowable for the same reasons. Claims 3 and 4 are allowable at least due to their respective dependencies. Applicants request that this rejection be withdrawn.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no.

325772023800.

Dated: January 26, 2006

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